

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. An antimicrobial skin sanitizing composition comprising:  
at least about 60 weight percent of an aliphatic alcohol having from 1 to 4  
5 carbon atoms;  
from about 0.1 to about 5 weight percent of a thickening agent; and  
an effective amount of a neutralizer designated by the FDA as a direct food  
substance that is Generally Recognized As Safe or as an amino acid permitted for  
direct addition to food for human consumption, to neutralize the thickening  
10 agent.
2. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol,  
propanol, isopropanol, butanol, isobutanol, or tertiary butanol.
- 15 3. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.
4. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the thickening agent is a  
carbomer polymer.
- 20 5. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the sanitizing composition  
comprises from about 60 to about 90 percent by weight alcohol.
6. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the neutralizer is designated by  
the FDA as Generally Recognized as Safe.
- 25 7. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the neutralizer contains a  
hydroxide selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium  
hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, and precursors thereof.

8. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the neutralizer contains an amino acid selected from the group consisting arginine, cysteine, and thiamine.
- 5 9. The sanitizing composition of claim 7, wherein the neutralizer contains sodium hydroxide.
- 10 10. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the sanitizing composition has a viscosity of from about 1,000 to about 65,000 centipoise at 70 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 11 11. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the sanitizing composition has a density of at least about 0.8 grams per milliliter.
- 15 12. The sanitizing composition of claim 1, wherein the sanitizing composition further comprises one or more components selected from moisturizers, emollients, preservatives, perfumes, dyes, opacifiers, and lubricity agents.
- 20 13. A method for preparing a high alcohol skin sanitizing composition, the method comprising the steps of:
  - dispersing a thickening agent in water to form a thickener dispersion;
  - adjusting the pH of the thickener dispersion by using a neutralizer to form a gel; and
  - adding an aliphatic alcohol having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms to the gel to form a sanitizing composition comprising at least about 60 percent by weight
- 25 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the neutralizer is selected from the group consisting of direct food substances affirmed by the FDA as Generally Recognized as Safe and amino acids permitted for direct addition to food for human
- 30 consumption.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the neutralizer contains a hydroxide selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide magnesium hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide and precursors thereof.
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16. The method of claim 13, wherein the neutralizer contains an amino acid selected from the group consisting of arginine, cysteine, and thiamine.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the neutralizer contains sodium hydroxide.
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18. The method of claim 13, wherein the thickening agent is a carbomer polymer.
19. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of adjusting the pH of the thickener dispersion comprises adjusting the pH to between about 4.1 and 4.8.
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20. The method of claim 13, wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, isobutanol, or tertiary butanol.
21. The method of claim 13, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.
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22. The method of claim 13, wherein the sanitizing composition has a viscosity of from about 1,000 to about 65,000 centipoise at 70 degrees Fahrenheit.
23. The method of claim 13, wherein the sanitizing composition comprises from about 60 to about 90 percent by weight aliphatic alcohol.
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24. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of adding one or more components selected from moisturizers, emollients, preservatives, perfumes, dyes, opacifiers, and lubricity agents to the sanitizing composition.
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- at least about 60 percent weight of an aliphatic alcohol having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

5 agent; and

from about 0.001 to about 0.2 weight percent sodium hydroxide to neutralize the thickening agent.